

Rear Admiral E. F. Rectanus, USN
Director of Naval Intelligence
Department of the Navy
Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear Admiral Rectanus:

Thank you for the copy of your study, "Comparative Estimates of Soviet Naval Strength." I consider this kind of performance review to be extremely valuable and would welcome further studies of this nature.

I fully agree that forecasting military forces is a difficult business and it too often becomes little more than educated guesswork for periods in excess of a few years. To help improve forecasting I would suggest that in future studies all of us give some detailed attention to the causes of our most serious errors. I would appreciate your recommendations as to the ways we could improve our identification of major uncertainties or errors and steps we could take to correct them.

Sincerely,

W. E. Colby
Director

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